

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 13 remain pending. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 6, and 8-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1 and 13 are in independent form.

Claims 1 and 2 were objected to for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action under "Claim Objections". Claim 1 has been amended as deemed necessary to overcome that claim's objection, and Claim 2 has been canceled. Thus, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 was objected to for depending on a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claim 13 has been amended to be placed in independent form, and is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2000-195449 (*Kawase*). Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kawase*.

Cancellation of Claims 2, 4, 6, and 8-12 renders their rejections moot. The foregoing action has been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the structure is formed in a shape to enable supplying of a potential to the electrode through the surface of the curved shape of the structure. As amended, the claim recites a method for

manufacturing an airtight container having a space in which a pressure is lower than an outside pressure, between opposing first and second substrates. The method comprises steps of assembling the container having a space between the first substrate on which an electrode is disposed on a surface to be facing the space and the second substrate which has a structure for supplying a potential to the electrode, and applying a pressure difference between inside and outside of the container assembled in the assembling step. In the container before the applying step, the structure has a concave portion which is opened to an external atmosphere at a through-hole penetrating the second substrate and closed at a bottom of the concave portion, having electrical conductivity. The pressure difference is brought in the applying step to elongate lengths of the structure in a direction in which the first and second substrates are opposed to each other, whereby the structure is formed in a shape to enable supplying of a potential to the electrode through the bottom of the structure.

The English abstract of *Kawase*, of record, states, in part:

“A terminal (102) of withdrawing a wiring (100) is extended and inserted through the hole (103) of rear side of flat surface board (1) which is provided in vacuum housing (4). A displaceable cantilever spring (105) is provided inside the vacuum housing.”

In *Kawase*, even if the member 1301 be deemed to constitute a concave portion, the member 101 is electrically connected to the leading wire 100, and the member 1301 is not electrically connected to the leading wire 100.

In Claim 1, on the other hand, the structure is formed in a shape to enable supplying of a potential to the electrode through the bottom of the structure. Nothing in *Kawase* would teach or suggest those features. Accordingly, Claim 1 is deemed clearly patentable over *Kawase*, and thus withdrawal of the rejection of that claim is respectfully requested.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against independent Claim 1 herein. That claim is therefore believed to be patentable over the art of record.

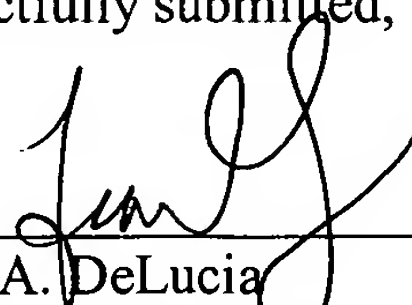
The other claims in this application are each dependent from Claim 1 and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by

telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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